Informationen

über



und Umgebung

El Paso, Texas Cd. Juarez, Mexiko

El Paso - und die am anderen Ufer des Rio Grande liegende mexikanische Stadt Juarez - verdanken ihr Entstehen der Tatsache, daß an dieser Stelle Nordamerikas der Rio Grande eine der Nord-Süd verlaufenden Ketten der Rocky Mountains durchbricht. Damit erschien den spanischen Eroberern am Ende



des 15. Jahrhunderts dieser an einem leicht gangbaren Weg nach Norden und Westen gelegene Ort, an dem Wasser inmitten eines Wüstengebietes zu finden war, für die Besiedelung geeignet.

Die Gründung der ersten Missionen in diesem Gebiet - die heutigen Orte Ysleta, Socorro und San Elizario - erfolgte in den Jahren nach 1682. Der über den Pass führende Camino Real, die königliche Straße, sicherte den Bestand dieser Orte und der schon 1659 gegründeten Siedlung an der Südseite des Flusses.

Der eigentliche Aufstieg El Pasos, das bis zur Unabhänigkeit von Texas mit dem heutigen Juarez zusammen eine Stadt bildete und von 1849 bis ca. 1870 "Franklin" hieß, begann jedoch erst 1881 mit dem Anschluß der Stadt an das amerikanische Eisenbahnnetz.

In die zweite Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts fällt auch die "Wild-West-Zeit" der Stadt mit Spielsalons, Bordellen und Schießereien auf offener Straße. Die nahe Grenze zu Mexiko hat das ihrige zu dieser Entwicklung beigetragen.

Heute ist El Paso eine bedeutende Industrie-, Handels- und Touristenstadt. Dies nicht zuletzt wiederum wegen ihrer Lage an der Grenze, die El Paso zum wichtigsten Übergang zwischen Mexiko und den USA macht und den amerikanischen Firmen die Möglichkeit bietet, bei Geschäftssitz in El Paso ihre Waren im Niedriglohnland Mexiko herstellen zu lassen (Maquiladoras).

Neben dem Tourismus sind die wichtigsten Wirtschaftsfaktoren heute immer noch die Landwirtschaft - nur hier und an wenigen anderen Orten in den USA gedeiht die langfaserige ägyptische Baumwolle -, der internationale Handel, die petrochemische Industrie, die Metallgewinnung und die Textilindustrie - "Levis" ist auch bei jungen Leuten in Deutschland ein Begriff. Ein weiterer wichtiger Wirtschaftsfaktor dieser Region ist das Militär mit seinen Einrichtungen in Fort Bliss und White Sands Missile Range.

Die nahe Grenze zu Mexiko hat natürlich nicht nur Vorteile. Sie bringt aufgrund des sozialen Gefälles zwischen den USA und Mexiko eine enorme illegale Einwanderung mit sich, und der Raum El Paso wurde, da die Grenze bei Ihrer großen Länge nicht zu überwachen ist, zu einem der Zentren des Drogenschmuggels aus Süd- und Mittelamerika in die USA. Monatlich versuchen mehr als 5000 illegale Grenzgänger in die USA eindringen, von denen allerdings ein großer Teil noch am gleichen Tag gefaßt und wieder zurückgebracht wird.

El Paso, dessen Bevölkerung noch um die Jahrhundertwende nur etwa 16.000 Bewohner zählte, hat heute mehr als 700 000 Einwohner. Anzumerken ist, daß wegen fehlender Meldepflicht und illegaler Zuwanderung diese Zahl auch höher liegen könnte.

Interessant ist noch zu bemerken, daß ca.73% der Bevölkerung El Pasos "Hispanics", also ethnisch mexikanisch sind; die viertgrößte Gruppe mit ca. 37.000 stellen die Einwohner deutscher Abstammung.

Juarez, bis 1888 "Paso del Norte" genannt, ist die Schwesterstadt El Pasos auf der mexikanischen Seite des Rio Grande. Ursprünglich gegründet an einer Furt an der Straße nach New Mexico, dem Santa Fe Trail, hat die Stadt sich, was die Bevölkerungszahl betrifft, noch rapider entwickelt als El Paso. Nach offizieller Zählung hat Juarez 1,2 Mio. Einwohner, man geht aber davon aus, daß sich in Wirklichkeit fast 1,5 Mio Menschen in Juarez niedergelassen haben. Ihren jetzigen Namen hat die Stadt nach dem mexikanischen Präsidenten Benito Juarez erhalten, der sich mit seiner konstitutionellen Regierung angesichts der französischen Intervention 1863 dorthin zurückgezogen hatte.

Wegen seines mexikanischen Kolorits, seines Kunsthandwerkes und anderen Attraktionen wie Stierkampf, Hunderennen und Nachtleben, ist Juarez heute eine Touristenstadt, die jährlich zahlreiche Besucher, auch viele Deutsche, anzieht.

Nicht zu übersehen ist das soziale Gefälle, das zwischen El Paso und Juarez besteht. Als Grenzstadt zum reichen Nachbarn und als Stadt in einer Randlage hat das überbevölkerte Juarez die wirtschaftlichen Schwierigkeiten Mexikos in verstärktem Maße zu ertragen. Diese Schwierigkeiten sind auf El Paso übertragbar, das trotz steigendem Lebensstandard zu den 5 Städten der USA mit dem niedrigsten Pro-Kopf-Einkommen gehört.

Sehens- und Erlebenswertes in El Paso

El Paso, sucht seinesgleichen. Mit seiner 400-jährigen Geschichte und Kultur ist El Paso eine ungewöhnliche Michung aus dem weltgewandten Leben des 20. Jahrhunderts und dem Pioniergeist des alten Westens. Hinzu kommt, daß die Stadt eine Grenze mit Mexiko teilt und somit eine echte internationale Atmosphäre bietet. Das Resultat ist eine Stadt, in der das Leben langsam fließt, die Menschen freundlich sind und wo es unendlich viele Arten von Freizeitgestaltung gibt.



Zum Beispiel beim Pferderennen im **Sunland Park**, wo Rassepferde um hohe Einsätze starten.

Der alte Westen hat neben Revolverhelden und Revolutionären auch Gutes in El Paso gelassen: das Rodeo. Einheimische und Besucher aus den gesamten USA strömen jedes Jahr Anfang November ins "County Colliseum" um den **Rodeo World Finals** beizuwohnen. Football im **Sun-Bowl-Stadium** und Basketball im **Special-Events-Center der UTEP** haben Jahr um Jahr auch ihre treuen Fans. El Paso ist Heimat des zweitältesten College-Football-Meisterschaftsspiels in Amerika. Das Basketballteam der "University of Texas at El Paso" (UTEP) ist alljährlicher Titelverteidiger in ihrer Liga.

Wenn man lieber aktiv mitmacht als zusieht, dann bietet El Paso Golf, Tennis und Wassersport - alles an etwa 350 Sonnentagen pro Jahr.

Neben dem sonnigen Klima präsentiert sich El Paso auch als attraktive Einkaufsstadt. Mit Stolz verweist El Paso auf die Manufaktur seiner hervorragenden **Westernkleidung**. Allein 2000 Paar Stiefel werden hier pro Tag hergestellt und in den zahlreichen **Outlet-Stores** zu günstigen Preisen angeboten. Nur wenige Besucher verlassen El Paso ohne ein neues Paar Cowboystiefel an den Füßen.

Wie ein Schuh paßt sich El Paso einem Bergvorsprung an. Wer das einmal im Überblick sehen möchte, der kann mit seinem Auto den **Scenic Drive** zum Mount Franklin fahren, der auf den südlichsten Ausläufer der Rocky Mountains bis auf knapp 1500 m hinaufführt.

Weit draußen, im Westen der Stadt, überquert die **Transmountain Road** die Franklin Mountains und mündet auf der gegenüberliegenden Seite im Nordosten El Pasos auf dem Highway 54. Zu jeder Zeit ist eine Fahrt über die Transmountain Road eine Iohnenswerte Sache. Die Aussicht vom Plateau aus über die Stadt und nach Mexiko hinein ist einmalig.

Downtown, vor allem die *Santa Fe Street*, bietet eine spezielle Mischung aus Neuzeit und 30er Jahren. Die älteren, meist angegammelten Discount-Läden sind fest in der Hand der hispanischen Bevölkerung, die hier auch lebt, weil es in der Stadt nirgendwo billiger ist. Tagsüber wimmelt hier ein reges Geschäftsleben, nachts wird es spukiger und fast menschenleer.

Im Stadtzentrum findet man auch das architektonisch ungewöhnliche "Convention & Performing Arts Center", Heimat des El Paso Sinfonie Orchesters und des El Paso Balletts.

Noch etwas gedeiht unter der West-Texas-Sonne: die Kunst. Gemälde des begehrten "Southwestern Style" findet man in öffentlichen Gebäuden und Gallerien in ganz El Paso. Das **El Paso Museum of Art** (eines der insgesamt 17 Museen der Stadt) beherbergt Werke von Meistern aus aller Welt.

Die Missionskirchen von Ysleta und Socorro und die Kapelle des San Elizario Presidio reihen sich wie Perlen einer Kette entlang der "Camino Real" (königliche Straße), die als älteste Straße der USA gilt. Diese Verkehrsader der spanischen Eroberer wurde später Teil des berühmten "Santa Fe-Chihuahua Trail". Die Missionskirchen, etwa 90 Jahre vor denen in Kalifornien erbaut, sind aktive Gemeinden und gelten als die Ältesten ihrer Art in den USA.

"Viva! El Paso", ein spektakuläres und farbenprächtiges Musical, das einen Einblick in die Geschichte des Südwestens und der Missionen vermittelt, wird

jeden Sommer von Juni bis August im **McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater** auf die Bühne gebracht.

Sehenswertes in Juarez, Mexico

Die größte "Attraktion" der Nachbarstadt Juarez ist Einkaufen. Entlang der Juarez Avenue (die Straße, die sich auf der mexikanischen Seite von der

Santa Fe Bridge fortsetzt) reihen sich Touristenläden dicht aneinander. **Pronaf** ist ein modernes Einkaufszentrum, entlang *Ave 16 de Septembre*. In der Nähe befinden sich Restaurants und Hotels sowie Museen mit Exponaten von Kunst bis Archäologie. In Juarez gibt es auch eine Hunderennbahn für Windhunde - Greyhound Racing Track - sowie eine Stierkampfarena (April bis September).

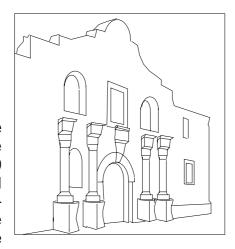
Ein beliebtes Ziel ist der sogenannte "Big Market", ein überdachter Touristenmarkt, ca. 15 Min. Fußweg vom Grenzübergang "Penny Bridge" entfernt.

Bei Kurzbesuchen in Juarez sollten Sie Ihr Fahrzeug möglichst auf einem der bewachten Parkplätze (ca. \$3 - \$5) auf der US-Seite zurücklassen und zu Fuß gehen, auf eine der zahlreichen Taxen oder auf den Touristenbus (Trolley) zurückgreifen.

Reiseziele in nächster Nähe

Old Mesilla (Las Cruces) - 47 Meilen

Old Mesilla ist eine ehemalige mexikanische Stadt, deren Geschichte Sie noch heute erkennen können. Old Mesilla wurde vor 110 Jahren bekannt durch die "Butterfield Overland Stage Route" - einer Ost-West-Reiseroute. Der in der ganzen Welt bekannte "Billy the Kid" hat hier gelebt. Noch heute



können Sie das Gefängnis besuchen, in dem er zeitweise inhaftiert war.

Die Plaza hat ringsherum Geschäfte, die zu einem kleinen Bummel einladen. Im "La Posta" der ehemaligen Poststation, und im "Double Eagle" können Sie die gute mexikanische Küche probieren.

White Sands National Monument - 109 Meilen

White Sands liegt in einem weiten Tal, dem "Tularosa Basin". Die Gipswüste erstreckt sich mehr als 100 Meilen im Quadrat zwischen den "San Andres Mountains" und den Sacramento Mountains". Picknickplätze mit Tischen und Bänken sowie fest installierte Grills finden Sie vor. Von den hohen Dünen haben Sie eine herrliche Aussicht auf die weisse Gipswüste.

Ruidoso - 120 Meilen

In Ruidoso ist der grösste Pferderennplatz der Welt. In der Saison werden an den Wochenenden bis zu 12 Rennen veranstaltet. Im Winter haben Sie die Möglichkeit zum Ski- und Schlittschuhlaufen sowie zum Schlittenfahren. Im Sommer zum Golfspielen, Bowling, Reiten; Jagen und Fischen ist mit entsprechender Lizenz möglich.

Ruidoso hat ausreichend Hotels/Motels mit gutem Service, wie z. B. Zimmer mit Fernseher, geheizten Swimming-Pools, usw.

In vielen kleinen Geschäften können handgearbeiteter Indianderschmuck, indianische Lederarbeiten und handgewebte Decken und Teppiche gekauft werden.

Cloudcroft - ca. 100 Meilen

Cloudcroft befindet sich in einer Höhe von 2987 m im herrlichen "Lincoln National Forest" und erinnert an den deutschen Schwarzwald. Sie können hier - je nach Jahreszeit - Ski- oder Eislaufen, Schlittenfahren, Snowmobile fahren, reiten, wandern, Golf spielen und angeln.

Hueco Tanks - 30 Meilen

Hueco Tanks bietet Ihnen die Möglichkeit zu Picknick, Kletterpartien und Besichtigung der Höhle mit indianischen Malereien. Hueco Tanks ist eine ehemalige Wasserstation des "Butterfield Trails".

Gila Forest National Park - 190 Meilen

Der Gila Forest bietet Ihnen mehrere sehr schöne Campingplätze und dem Angler reichhaltige Fischgründe. Bei diesem Ausflug sollten Sie auch das "Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument" besuchen. Hier finden Sie sechs große Höhlen, in denen noch heute Ruinen indianischer Höhlenwohnungen erhalten sind.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park - 110 Meilen

In West-Texas, nur etwa 40 Meilen südwestlich von Carlsbad-Caverns, liegt eine Perle von einem Park, von dem nur wenige Menschen außerhalb des Staates je gehört haben. Guadalupe Mountains. National Park nimmt den südlichsten und höchsten Teil der 50 Meilen langen Kette der Guadalupes ein. Von der Straße aus ähnelt der Gebirgszug einem Wall quer durch die Wüste. Etwa 80 Meilen Wanderwege führen bis hinauf zum Guadalupe Peak, dem höchsten Punkt in Texas (2.667 m), oder auf andere, von Nadelwald bestandene Gipfel, wie sie eigentlich nur für die Rockies typisch sind.

Besonders empfehlenswert ist im Spätherbst eine Wanderung in den McKittrick Canyon, wo die Laubfärbung diese ca. 5 Meilen lange Oase in ein rot/gelbes Farbenmeer verwandelt.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park - 164 Meilen

Die Chihuahua-Wüste mit ihrer Dornenvegetation läßt kaum ahnen, daß sich unter ihr, ein "Grand Canyon mit einem Dach drauf" verbirgt. Am Nordrand dieser Wüste breitet sich in der Tat unter einer Gebirgskette der Guadalupes eine der tiefsten, größten und formenreichsten Höhlen aus, die je entdeckt wurden.

Im Sommer halten sich über eine halbe Million Bulldog-Fledermäuse in der Höhle auf. Bei Sonnenuntergang fliegen sie in Schwärmen heraus um Insekten zu jagen.

Der Park liegt nahe an der US 62/180, 20 Meilen südwestlich von Carlsbad. Zum Visitor Center fährt man von Whites City auf einer schmalen Straße noch ca. 7 Meilen nach Westen.

Elephant Butte - 130 Meilen

Der Elephant Butte ist einer der größten von Menschenhand geschaffenen Stauseen. Aufgrund des Fischreichtums ist dieser See ein beliebtes Ausflugsziel für Angler. Sie finden dort Campingplätze, Picknickplätze mit Tischen und Bänken sowie fest installierte Grills vor und können hier Wasserskilaufen erlernen und ausüben.

Big Band National Park

Big Band National Park

Information



Authorized June 20, 1935 and established June 12, 1944 as a National Park by Congressional Act signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Designated an International Biosphere Reserve, 1976.

Big Bend National Park is a land of borders. Situated on the boundary with Mexico along the Rio Grande, it is a place where countries and cultures meet. It is also a place that merges natural environments, from desert to mountains. It is a place where south meets north and east meets west, creating a great diversity of plants and animals. The park covers over 801,000 acres of west Texas in the place where the Rio Grande makes a sharp turn - the Big Bend.

The Indians said that after making the Earth, the Great Spirit simply dumped all the leftover rocks on the Big Bend. Spanish explorers, less intimate with the landscape, merely dubbed this "the uninhabited land." To come to know this land of desert and mountains cut through by the Rio Grande, the big river, is but to grasp a larger appreciation of the unknown. Here you will find, believe it or not, a desert amphibian, Couch's spadefoot toad; a mosquito fish whose entire world range is one pond in the park; a small mammal, the kangaroo rat, that makes metabolic water; and a good-sized bird, the roadrunner, that would rather run than fly. There are winged insects that live their entire lives in, on, and off one species of plant. By contrast, coyotes may turn up anywhere and will eat almost anything. Jackrabbits have such large ears that they use them as radiators, transferring body heat to the environment. Motion can be almost imperceptible--or as fast as the diving peregrine falcon clocked at more than 200 mph. Time can be measure... or you can leave it unmeasured. If you want the reaches of time, find them in the Fossil Bone Exhibit or the deep rock strata of Santa Elena, Mariscal and Boguillas canyons. For a fleeting glimpse of time, watch the jackrabbit sprint to elude a predator. If you are mildly patient, see how long it take after the first good rainstorm for seemingly lifeless desert to come alive with brightly colored flowers. The truth is, Big Bend is more mood than place. Sometimes you must wait for it to capture you.

Big Bend National Park can be thought of as having three natural divisions; the river, the desert and the mountains. River and mountains

serve as counterpoints to the desert. The river is a linear oasis. The mountains function--in relation to their arid surroundings--much like an island of temperate life.

The River

The name Big Bend refers to the great U-turn the Rio Grande makes here in Southwest Texas. The river is an arching linear oasis, a ribbon of green strung across the dry desert and cutting through its mountains. As do all rivers that survive desert passages, the Rio Grande has its headwaters outside this desert. Today, much of the water flowing through the park is supplied by the Rio Conchos, flowing out of Mexico, and not by the Rio Grande. Much of the flow of the Rio Grande is diverted for irrigation or lost to evaporation before reaching the park's western boundary. The Rio Grande defines the park's southern boundary for 118 miles. The garfish and some turtles in the river are living fossils that help describe its former life as a lush savannah and swamp 50 million years ago. Their ancestors swam in company with crocodiles and hippopotamus-like creatures.

If you wonder about the river's carving power, did it really cut such colossal canyons?--paddle an aluminum canoe down the Rio Grande. The canoe will seem to hiss as thousands of abrasive particles bounce off its hull. The river is like a relentless, gravity-powered belt sander that has been running for millions of years.

Among the most startling sights in this desert country may be the tooth marks of beaver on cottonwood or willow trees along the river. But don't look for beaver lodges. The beaver in the Big Bend live in bank burrows. The river is an oasis for species not adapted to the aridity of desert life, and so it adds to the park's biological diversity.

The river floodplain provides good areas for birdwatchers. Some birders maintain that the birds in the floodplain are more colorful than elsewhere. Here you find summer tanagers, painted buntings, vermilion flycatchers and cardinals serving as accent colors to the background greens of floodplain foliage. This ribbon-like floodplain verdancy, seen from a distance, appears as a green belt in the desert. It is a phenomenon seen elsewhere in the park along arroyos, or washes. Undoubtedly you will find birds and other animals making ample use of this interruption of more arid desert vegetation.

On the river's gravel and sandbars and on its cliffbanks are other creatures you would not expect to find in the Chihuahuan Desert. The sandpiper and killdeer bob and sprint on the sandbars, and the cliff swallow flies up to its adobe nest fashioned of river mud.

While the floodplain had been inhabited by native people for centuries, extensive exploration of the Rio Grande dates back only about 130 years. However, Spanish explorers crossed the Rio Grande in the 16th and 17th centuries in their search for gold and silver and fertile lands. The Presidio del Paso de San Vicente was established in 1774 at a major crossing on the Rio Grande. People did not attempt floating the river, as far as we know. The Comanche Indians also crossed the river during the 19th century, traveling to and from Mexico with their raiding parties.

Exploration of the river itself came only in 1852, with a boundary survey conducted by U.S. Army Major William H. Emory. The Emory party examined all three canyons but elected to float only Mariscal. In 1881, a survey party led by a Texas Ranger floated Santa Elena Canyon. The leader actually led his party by horse from the canyon rim. In 1889, a U.S. Geological Survey expedition became the first group to run Boquillas Canyon. Some farming had been done on the river's floodplain starting with Mexican settlers on both banks around 1900. Anglo-Americans joined in the farming after 1920, when the Mexican-American boundary unrest ended. Cotton and food crops were grown around Castolon and what is now Rio Grande Village even after the park was established in 1944.

The Desert

North America has four warm deserts: Great Basin, Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan. The Chihuahuan extends deep into Mexico. Big Bend National Park lies in the northern third of the Chihuahuan Desert. This desert is bordered on three sides by mountains that block the rains. The fourth side abuts vast semiarid plains. The Chihuahuan Desert is young, perhaps not more than 8,000 years old. It is also a green and somewhat lush desert that receives most of its rainfall during the summer months when it is needed most. The chief indicator plant of the Chihuahuan Desert is lechuguilla, appearing as a clump of dagger blades protruding from the desert floor. The coarse, strong fibers of the lechuguilla are used in matting, ropes, bags and household items, which are, in a way, products of the Chihuahuan Desert. The lechuguilla illustrates an often misunderstood fact about the desert: the desert is a life zone. Life has adapted here to minimize expending its energy and to maximize getting or even hoarding water, as the kangaroo rat illustrates.

Heat and seasonal winds contribute to the aridity. At mid-day in summer, ground temperatures may reach 180° F, or it can be freezing cold in winter when northern storms sweep through. The good news is that it is often a luxurious 80° F here while the Rocky Mountains are locked in deep snow.

Prehistoric Native Americans made their homes here at least 10,000 years ago and perhaps earlier, but little evidence of human occupation appears until the Archaic or Desert Culture of 6,000 BC. These people were not farmers but hunters and gathers who took only what this country offered on its own.

Hundreds of Chihuahuan Desert plants were useful to prehistoric people for food or medicine. Their diet included the heart of the sotol and lechuguilla plants; the fruit and blossoms of yucca; the fruit and young pads of pricklypear; mesquite and acacia beans; and many other native plants. They fashioned baskets and sandals from lechuguilla fiber and yucca leaves. For hunting they used the atiati, a throwing stick that propelled stone-tipped darts to kill deer, rabbits and other game. Like us they needed not only food but valuable sources of drinking water, and today, living sites often include the remnants of rock shelters and hearths or fire rings. In the later part of the Archaic Period, trade between the local people and those from the south and west introduced horticultural practices, bringing cultivated corn, beans and squash to

supplement their diets. By 1200, the La Junta people, an agricultural group related to the Puebloan people of the upper Rio Grande, occupied and farmed the river floodplain in areas west of today's national park. In the 1500s, the Spaniards enslaved the Native Americans and substantially changed their culture. Apaches moved in sometime in the 1700s, pushed southward by the Comanches.

The Apaches were capable of resisting the Spaniards, who in the 1700s began to release their tenuous hold of this area. In the 19th century, driven by pressures on hunting territories from encroaching Anglo-American homesteaders, the Comanches were forced southward. Mexican settlers occupied the Big Bend by the early 1800s, and their isolated communities became the targets of raids by nomadic Comanche warriors. The gold discoveries in California in the mid-1800s and the destruction of the bison herds hastened the Comanches' decline. Military forts were built along the route that passed through this area to California goldfields.

We should not be amazed that Big Bend animals are so curiously and so well adapted to the desert life. Such adaptations are what life is all about. There are fairy shrimp, fast-growing toads and those jackrabbit ears. There are more mundane adaptations, too. Many animals beat the heat by coming out only at night. Most snakes do this because summer daytime temperatures on the desert floor would kill them in minutes. Another simple way to beat this heat is to climb above it. Many human travelers pass through the summer desert quickly, headed for the higher and cooler Chisos Mountains. Some insects use the same principle. They merely fly straight up in the air a short distance, where it is significantly cooler. One walking beetle seems to rise up on stilts periodically, again to achieve critical distance from the desert floor's killing heat.

The Mountains

If the Rio Grande interrupts the Big Bend country as a linear oasis, the Chisos Mountains interrupt it as a green island in a desert sea. As does the river, the mountains bring creatures you might not expect to find in desert areas, and several species are quite rare. Isolation provided the key. This situation was set in motion thousands of years ago as the Great Ice Age drew to a close. As the colder, moister climates retreated northward, many plants and animals became stranded in the Chisos Mountains by the lowlands' increasing aridity.

Carmen Mountains white-tailed deer provide a graphic example. Within the United States, these deer live only in the Chisos Mountains. They also occupy several of the nearby mountain ranges in Mexico but are not known to occur outside this area that the Rio Grande bisects. White-tailed deer are not adapted to desert conditions. They may have had a much wider range in this region during the Ice Age, when its climate was cooler. As the climate warmed, cooler conditions prevailed in the mountains because of their higher elevations. Today, the fate of this smaller white-tailed deer can be monitored by watching the desert mule deer gradually encroach on mountain foothills. Adapted to desert life, mule deer appear to be usurping some of the white-tail deer's range.

Average rainfall at the Basin, a Chisos Mountains location popular with people and other animals, is twice that at Rio Grande Village along the river. Approaching the mountains through Green Gulch, you pass grasslands punctuated by century plants and sotol, but soon notice green, leafy shrubs. Then the bushes get taller, with evergreen sumac, mountain mahogany, Texas madrone and common beebrush. You see both evergreen and deciduous leaves. When you attain an elevation of 4,500 feet, the first tall trees begin to appear. Higher up in the drainages you see masses of trees--junipers, small oak trees and pinyon pines. Some tree species found in the Chisos Mountains grow there at the extreme southern limit of their ranges in the United States: Arizona pine, Douglas fir, Arizona cypress, quaking aspen and bigtooth maple. These are the last lingering remnants of forests once widespread here under the influence of the Ice Age.

Some Big Bend plant species are found nowhere else in the world. The Chisos oak grows only in the Chisos Mountains highcountry. A number of other plant species grow in the United States only in the Chisos Mountains but also are found in Mexico and elsewhere. The drooping juniper that looks like it needs a good watering is such as plant.

To see all the bird species that occur in the United States, eventually you must come to the Chisos Mountains to see the Colima Warbler. It nests here after wintering in Mexico. Also occurring here is the mountain lion, locally called a panther. This cat has given its name to the lion's share of park places, including Panther Pass and Panther Junction.

Amazing Adaptations

The popular image of desert-dwelling plants is the cactus, uncommonly adept at getting water and then miserly about hanging onto it. There are other strategies or adaptations. One is waiting. Many desert annuals, unlike their counterparts in temperate climes, simply wait out the rains in their seed stage of life. It the rains don't come one year, the seed simply remains dormant. Some seeds are coated with chemicals that inhibit germination. Unless enough rain falls to remove the inhibitor, the seed ignores the wetting. This assures that the developing plant will have enough water to complete its life cycle and develop new seeds before the next dry spell. This chemically patient seed may wait more than a year to germinate, but once it does, the plant will develop, flower and fruit much more rapidly than a temperate annual would.

Creosotebushes ply another strategy. These regularly spaced shrubs look as though human beings had planted them because they produce a toxin in the leaves that, when shed, discourages other plants from intruding on their growing space. The small creosotebush leaves are coated with a resin so that they lose little moisture to the air. These combined strategies make creosotebush the most prevalent shrub in the park and enable it to prosper in all North American deserts. Creosotebushes that grow along a road, tap pavement runoff and may grow twice as tall as those one row back from the road.

Cactuses exemplify water conservation. Instead of water-losing leaves, cactuses have spines. These also protect the plants from being trampled or eaten (when you're all stem, you can't afford to be nibbled on!). The thick and fleshy stem presents reduced surface area and

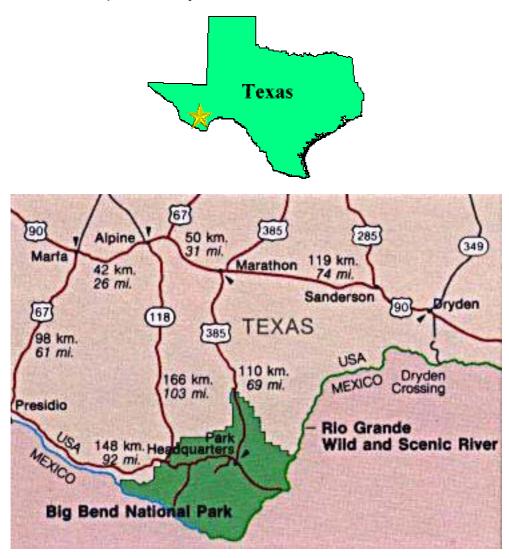
bares a waxy coating that inhibits evapotranspiration. The shallow root system spreads in a wide pattern to intercept rainwater as soon as it enters the ground. Cactuses store water, serving as their own reservoirs and surviving long droughts.

The ocotillo, not a cactus, is in a family by itself. With rain, the ocotillo develops leaves but drops them when dry conditions return. This may happen several times per year.

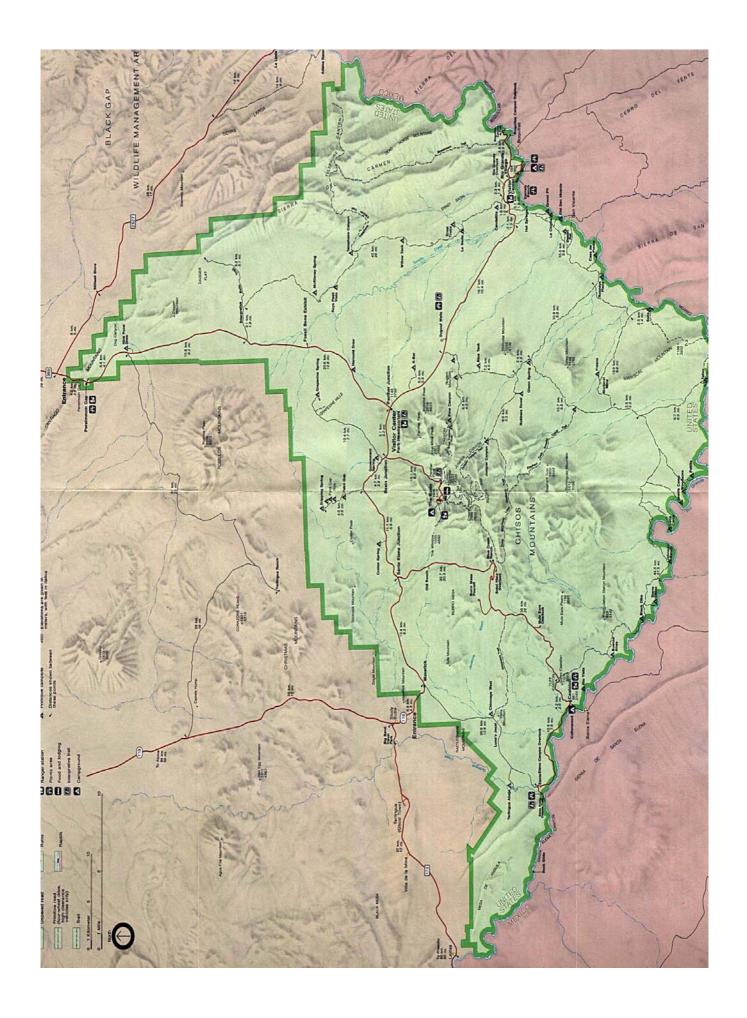
Wax extracted from the candelilla, or wax plant, is used in the manufacture of candles, waxes, gum and phonograph records (ask you parents what these are). In the rainy season, the stem fills up with a thick sap that, in the dry season, coats the stem as a wax and prevents evaporation. The wax seals in moisture and protects the candelilla from drought.

Desert plants display their most profuse flowering in late summer, following the regular rains of July and August. While this is difficult to predict, wildflowers often are most impressive during the hot months. One glimpse of this floral richness may change your image of the desert forever.

Information was provided by the National Park Service.

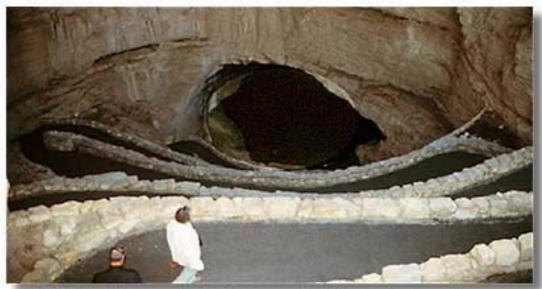


Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.big.bend.national-park.com/info.htm



Carlsbad Caverns

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



The Natural Entrance to the Caverns - 750 feet down to the main room.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park was established to preserve Carlsbad Cavern and numerous other caves within a Permian-age fossil reef. The park contains 83 separate caves, including the nation's deepest limestone cave -- 1,597 feet -- and third longest. Carlsbad Cavern, with one of the world's largest underground chambers and countless formations. It is also highly accessible, with a variety of tours offered year-round.

The evening flight of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*) from the entrance of Carlsbad Cavern is one of the park's principal visitor attractions. Free-tailed bats are a colonial species that feed entirely on insects. The colony at Carlsbad is comprised primarily of females who give birth to their young from June through July before migrating south in October to winter in Mexico.

General Information

Seasons / Hours

The park is open year round except for December 25.

Rates & Fees

Self-guided tours of the Natural Entrance and Big Room are \$6 for adults; \$3 for Golden Age/Golden Access Passport holders;
 \$3 for children ages 6 through 15; children under age 6 are free.
 Golden Eagle Passports are not valid for cave entry fees.

- The "Cavern Guide", a stimulating audio tour of the two selfguided routes, is an additional \$3.
- Kings Palace Guided Tours (minimum age 4 years) are an additional \$8 for adults, and \$4 for ages 6-15 and Golden Age Passport holders (reservations required).
- Guided tours of Slaughter Canyon Cave are \$15 for adults, and \$7.50 for ages 6-15 and Golden Age/Golden Access Passport holders.
- Guided wild cave tours of Spider Cave, Lower Cave, and Hall of the White Giant are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for ages 12-15 and Golden Age/Golden Access Passport holders.
- Guided tours of Left Hand Tunnel are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for ages 6-15 and Golden Age/Golden Access Passport holders.

Reservations

Reservations are recommended for all guided cave tours, but are unnecessary for the basic self-guided tours of the Natural Entrance and Big Room. To make reservations for tours call 1-800-967-CAVE.

Visitor Center

Summer Season (Memorial Day to mid-August): The Visitor Center is open from 8 am to 7 pm and self-guided cave tours are available from 8:30 am to 5 pm. **Rest of the Year:** The Visitor Center is open from 8 am to 5:30 pm and self-guided cave tours are available from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.



Facilities/Features

Stores/Museum

The Carlsbad Caverns - Guadalupe Mountains Association operates a large bookstore in the Visitor Center, with titles on caves, bats and the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Information center, exhibits on bats, geology, history, and Lechuguilla Cave, limited picnic facilities are available.

Programs/Events

Self-guided cave tours with the Official Cavern Guide, regularly scheduled ranger-guided cave tours, audio-visual programs, talks, hikes and demonstrations. Evening bat flight programs May through October. August 13: Bat Flight Breakfast Program.October 9-10: 75th Anniversary of Proclamation of Carlsbad Cave National Monument Program and Employee Reunion

Food/Supplies

The Cavern Supply Company (505-785-2281) provides food service, pet kennels, and a gift shop at the Visitor Center. Restaurants, groceries, and fuel are available at nearby Whites City and Carlsbad.

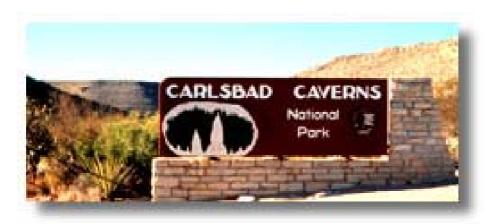
Accessibility

The visitor Center and a large section of the self-guided Big Room tour are wheelchair-accessible. An outdoor nature trail and picnic sites near the Visitor Center and at Rattlesnake Springs are also accessible. Special spaces to accommodate wheelchairs are located at the entrance to the amphitheater. Restrooms are available and are accessible.

Rules, Regulations, Precautions

- Pets are not allowed in the amphitheater area, on park trails or in the backcountry..
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited.
- Camping is allowed in designated wilderness areas only.
- There is no overnight vehicle or RV camping in the park.
- Driving off established roads is prohibited.
- Campfires are not permitted within the park.
- You must pack out of the backcountry all trash.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Entering backcountry caves without written permission of the superintendent is prohibited.
- Horse use is permitted only in designated areas.
- Collecting, destroying, or defacing any cultural feature, mineral, plant, or wildlife is prohibited.
- Flash photography is not permitted at all bat flights as it will disturb bats exiting and re-entering an important maternity roost.





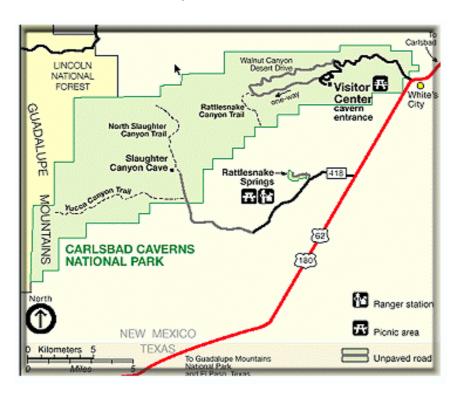
Geography

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is located in in the Guadalupe Mountains of southern New Mexico along the Texas border. It is situated about 20 miles west of the Pecos River, which flows through Carlsbad (formerly Eddy), New Mexico, 25 miles northeast.

Rattlesnake Springs, a detached unit of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, was acquired by the National Park Service in 1934 for the primary purpose of ensuring a reliable domestic water supply for cavern area development. This oasis is bounded by the gently rolling Chihuahuan Desert plains dotted with desert scrub such as creosote bush, yucca, mesquite, and snakewood. These plains are framed by the magnificent backdrop of the Guadalupe escarpment.

Climate

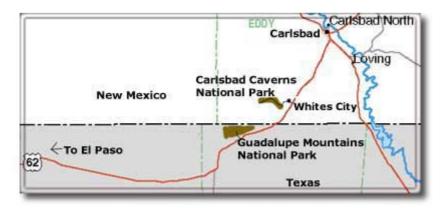
Carlsbad Cavern National Park park is characterized by its relatively high elevations, cool dry winters and hot wet summers. Below ground, the cave climate is cool and varies little from the annual 56° F average. A light jacket or sweater, and comfortable shoes with rubber soles for good traction are appropriate year-round.



Getting There

By Auto

Visitors arrive by way of U.S. Highway 62-180 from either Carlsbad, New Mexico (25 miles to the northeast) or El Paso, Texas (150 miles to the west). A scenic 7-mile entrance road leads from the park gate at Whites City to the Visitor Center and cavern entrance.



Public Transportation

Carlsbad is served by Greyhound and TNM bus lines. Mesa Airlines offers passenger service between Carlsbad and Albuquerque. Major airlines serve Albuquerque, El Paso, and Midland TX. Rental cars and taxi service are available from the airport at Carlsbad.



3225 National Parks Highway Carlsbad, NM 88220 505-785-2232.

E-Mail: cave interpretation@nps.gov

Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.desertusa.com/carl/carl maps.html

Cloudcroft

Cloudcroft New Mexico

...9000 feet above stress level

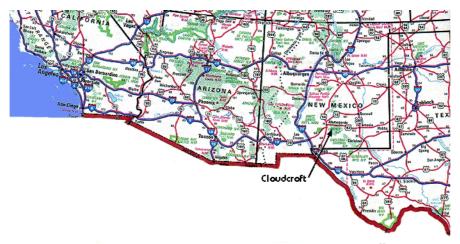


As you climb in altitude, you begin to see things a little differently. The people seem nicer, the air - fresher. That's because in Cloudcroft things are different. From our towering pines, cozy lodging and quaint shops and restaurants, to our groomed ski slopes and high altitude golf courses, Cloudcroft is just quiet enough to help you unwind. So go for a walk, hike, bike or horseback ride. There's plenty to do all year-round. At an altitude of 9000 feet, it's not hard to leave your worries far behind.

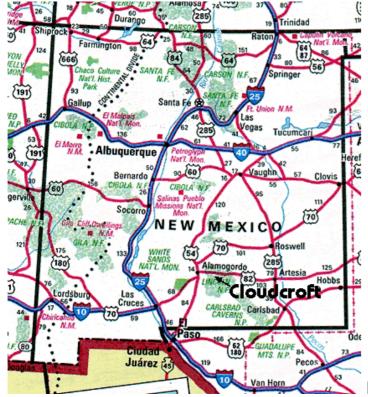


Cloudcroft, a small mountain village located in the heart of the Lincoln National Forest, is a year-round Mountain Playland for: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding, Downhill Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Sledding, Snowmobiling, Snow Play, Shopping, Restaurants, Astronomy, Golf, Camping, Art Workshops, Festivals, Wildlife and Nature Photography, Disc Golf, Bird Watching, Cozy Cabins, and the list goes on...





Übersichtskarte



Lage von Cloudcraft

For more information, call 505-682-2733 or E-mail cloudnet@zianet.com

If you have comments or suggestions about the site E-mail webmaster@cloudcroft.net

Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.cloudcroft.net/

Elephant Butte Lake



Elephant Butte Lake State Park Sierra County, NM



Elephant Butte Lake State Park is located five miles from Truth or Consequences and is the largest lake in the state of New Mexico

The lake's surface covers 38,000 acres. Fishing is a year-round sport with motor boating and sail boating as well. The lake is known for its black and white bass, catfish, pike, and crappie. Trout are planed in the river below Elephant Butte Dam (s.u.).

Water skiing is a popular summertime sport from April through September.

Elephant Butte State Park provides camping facilities for the self contained camper, and the camper needing electricity. Picnic spots with grills and water are located in several areas overlooking the lake. Those with four wheel drive have access to the sandy beaches lining the shore. Small portable restrooms are available in the beach areas. Drinking fountains, modern restrooms and showers are strategically placed throughout the main camping areas. Several parking loops for trailers and campers are located in the park with electricity available.



A concrete launching ramp is located at the Elephant Butte Resort Marina, a short distance from the State Park office. Other launching areas are located at Hot Springs Landing, Rock canyon and at the Damsite Recreation Area, located three miles east of the State Park office.

Boats, fishing gear and skiing equipment are available for rent and sale at the marinas.

Camping fees are charged within the State Park, and New Mexico fishing licenses are required.

The Paseo Del Rio State Park is located in the former national fish hatchery below Elephant Butte Dam and has been converted into a picnic area on the banks of the Rio Grande under willow and cottonwood trees. Sheltered picnic tables with grills are placed throughout the park. Trout fishing in season, and catfish year around is enjoyed.

Recreational supplies, fishing supplies and groceries may be found in area businesses located in the Truth or Consequences and Elephant Butte area.

Elephant Butte Dam

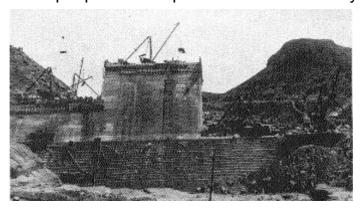
Elephant Butte Dam was constructed between 1911 and 1916 at a site on the Rio Grande River about 5 miles northeast of Truth or Consequences. Pictures in the museum show the method used to build the concrete structure 306 feet high and 1,674 feet long. The top of the dam is 16 feet wide while the base has a width of 205 feet.

The reservoir has a capacity of 2,200,000 acre feet. This is enough water to cover 4,000 square miles with one foot of water. At capacity the water backs up as far as 45 miles above the dam and creates some 200 miles of shoreline.

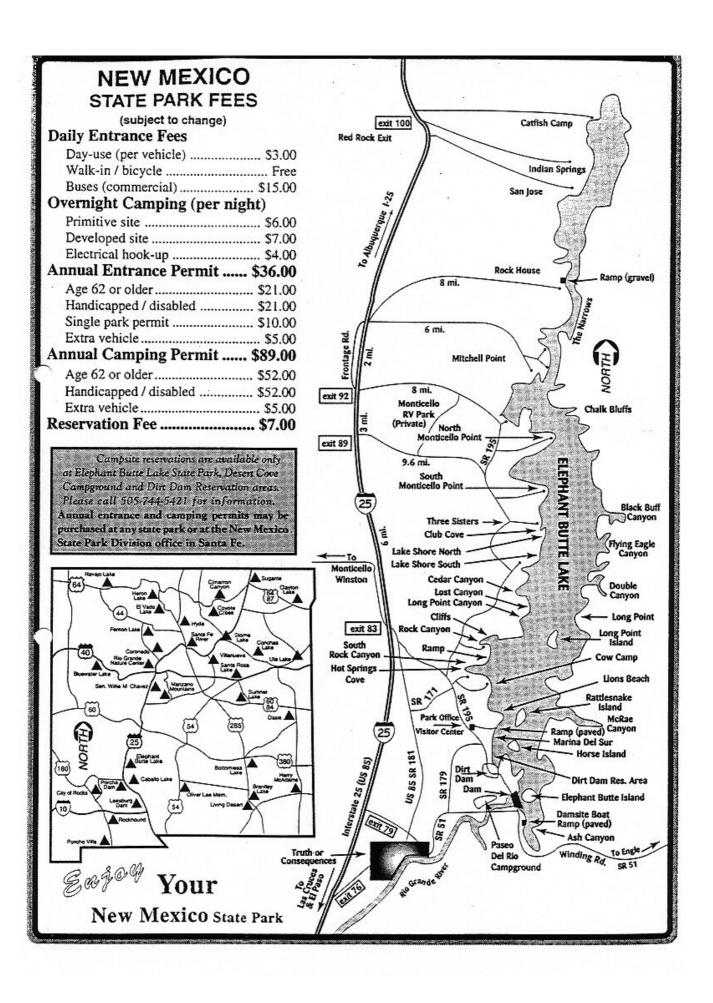
Water from the reservoir is used to irrigate more than 150,000 acres of land stretching 200 miles down the Rio Grande Valley. Part of T.or C.' electricity is supplied by giant turbines which operate at Elephant Butte Dam during the irrigation season.

Water stored at Elephant Butte Lake moves down the Rio Grande through T. or C. to Caballo Lake, about 20 miles down river from dam. The large body of water at Caballo is then released in a controlled flow further down the Rio Grande for irrigation use.

State parks have been established at both Elephant Butte and Caballo Lakes with many facilities available for boating, fishing, and camping. More than a million people visit Elephant Butte Park each year.

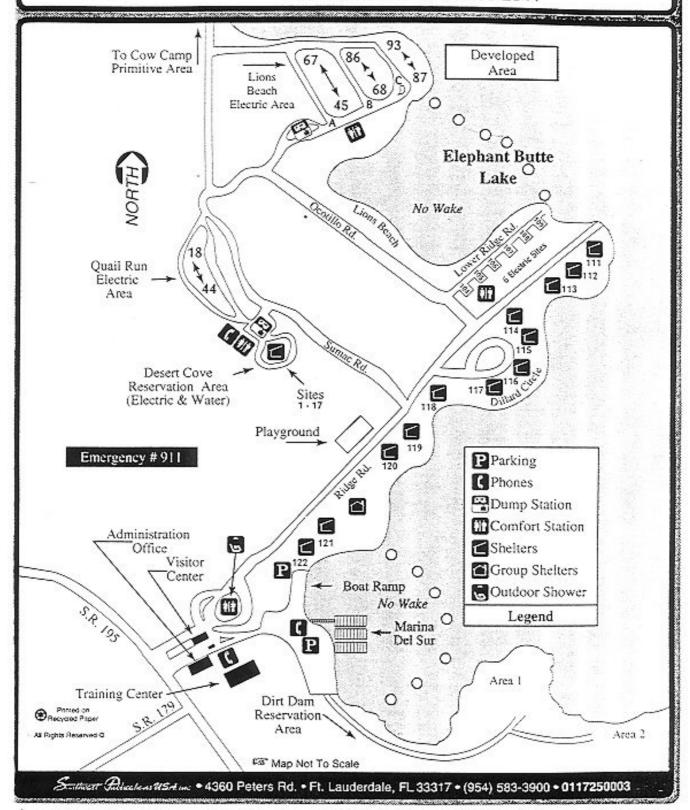


Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://village.globaldrum.com/sierra_newmexico/park1.htm





New Mexico State Park and Recreation Division Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources Department P.O. Box 13 Elephant Butte, NM 87935 505-744-5421 • 1-800-451-2541



Guadalupe Mountains



Guadalupe Mountains

National Park



Located in Salt Flat, TX

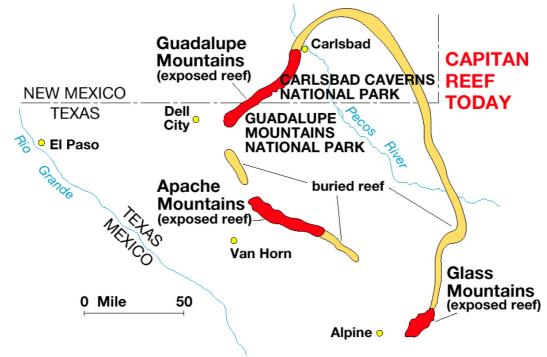
Located 35 miles southwest of Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains National Park is an 86,000 acre hidden jewel of the National Park system.

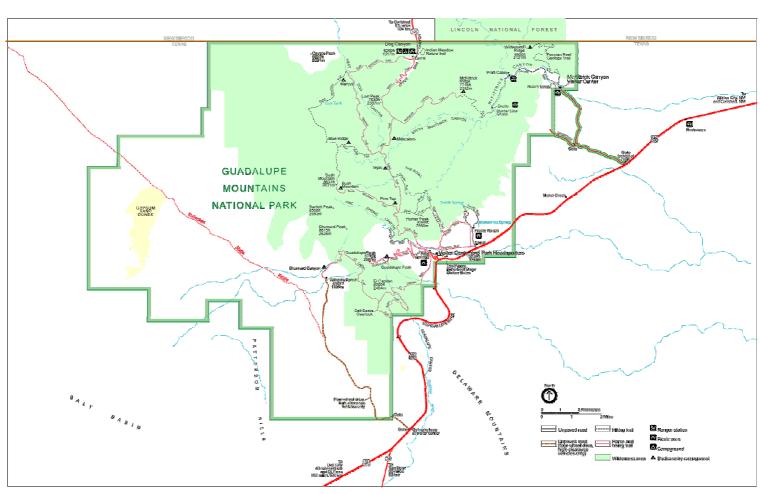
The park's 80 miles of trails include the 3,000 foot climb to the top of Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet above sea level. The McKittrick Canyon trail follows a year round stream shaded by maple, oak and Texas madrone trees. This hike is especially popular in the fall when the leaves change to vibrant colors. The main visitors' center is open daily, call (915) 828-3251 for more information.

Rising from the desert, this mountain mass contains portions of the world's most extensive and significant Permian limestone fossil reef. Also featured are a tremendous earth fault, lofty peaks, unusual flora and fauna, and a colorful record of the past. Guadalupe Peak, highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet; El Capitan, a massive limestone formation; McKittrick Canyon, with its unique flora and fauna; and the "Bowl", located in a high country conifer forest, are significant park features. Established: September 30, 1972.

QUICK FACTS

Annual Budget is \$1,974,000.00 (FY 1999) Annual Visitation is 219,591 (1999) Park Covers 86,416 Acres





Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.nps.gov/gumo/

Hueco Tanks

Hueco Tanks State Historical Park

El Paso, TX U.S.A.

- Open Year-Round
- Entry Fee Charged

6900 Hueco Tanks Road El Paso, TX 79938 U.S.A. 915-857-1135



This 860-acre park 32 miles northeast of El Paso is named for the large rock basins, or "huecos" (pronounced way-coes), that have supplied trapped rainwater to settlers and travelers for millennia.

More than five millennia, in fact, according to the pictographs that have made the park famous. The oldest of the 3,000 Native American drawings on the rocks could go back 6,000 years, researchers believe.

These fascinating images depict human and animal figures, as well as mythological designs. The newest drawings were made during the relatively recent era of the Mescalero Apaches.



One of the larger "tanks" at Hueco Tanks State Historical Park.



A long view at Hueco Tanks State Historical Park.



Rock climbers are dwarfed by the height of a cliff face at Hueco Tanks.

Rock overhangs, food, wildlife, plants and water have attracted visitors to this land for centuries. Because of the water supply, there are wildlife and plants not normally found in this desert region.

Evidence of Anglo settlement is here too. An old ranch house is now the park's interpretive center and there are stone remnants of a stagecoach station. This region of the Chihuahuan Desert is home to prairie falcons, golden eagles, roadrunners, foxes, coyotes, rattlesnakes and endangered horned toads. Many creatures feed on the tiny translucent shrimp that "bloom" seasonally in the hueco basins.

Park staff discuss the history and the bird life of the park during guided tours. Activities at Hueco Tanks include rock art viewing off the 6.5 miles of trail, rockclimbing and picnicking.

Open fires and solid fuels are banned. Picnic stoves must use propane, butane or liquid fuels only.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://home.flash.net/~hangdog/huecotanks.html
http://www.lascrucescvb.org/html/visitor info request.html

Old Mesilla



Las Cruces, Old Mesilla

This town offers our area a glimpse of days gone by. Walk through the streets and you'll gather a sense of how a border village looked in the 1800s. It was here that Billy the Kid was tried for murder and sentenced to hang -- though shortly afterward he escaped. Mesilla was settled in



1850 as part of Mexico until the Gadsden Purchase was signed in 1854 making it a legal part of the United States. Today,

Mesilla offers an array of shopping opportunities as well as frequent cultural events on the plaza. Ever present is the San Albino Catholic Church, still a vital part of the town. Venture off the plaza and find the Fountain Theater and its ghost.

A more leisurely stroll will bring visitors close to an acequia (or water canal) used to irrigate the fertile Mesilla Valley.

The Gadsden Museum, located on Barker Road at Highway 28, is a must-see for history buffs. It recounts the history of famed local personality Albert Jennings Fountain as well as the legend of the Hermit at La Cueva.



Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.zianet.com/SNM/maps/maplc.htm
http://www.lascrucescvb.org/html/old mesilla.html

Ruidoso

Ruidoso, New Mexico

"An Oasis in the Mountains"

The most frequent complaint of visitors and newcomers to the Desert Southwest is the lack of foliage. At times the brown terrain can be almost overwhelming. You know you've become used to living here



when you're willing to argue that El Paso's mountains are, in fact, green during the late summer "rainy season".

What does a tree-hugger do when staring at the desert starts to cause uncontrollable shakes? He heads for the mountains of southern New Mexico. Just a two to three hour drive north of El Paso you can find an entirely different world in the village of Ruidoso, New Mexico. The first part of the drive will convince you we're lying; "no way", you'll say, " I'll never escape the brown". Then, just after leaving Tularosa, New Mexico, you'll begin climbing from the desert elevation of about 4,000 feet above sea level toward Ruidoso's elevation of over 7,000 feet. Along the way you'll notice a gradual shift in vegetation, ending in beautiful pine and aspen forests common in the Rocky Mountains. Ruidoso is a town with just a few thousand permanent residents. Sudderth Drive, the main street, is lined with enough shops, galleries and restaurants to keep lots of visitors busy. Santa Fe is definitely the best known New Mexico resort town, but Ruidoso can easily claim to be second best - and it's less crowded, less expensive, and definitely less pretentious.

Two good lodging options are the Best Western Swiss Chalet on Highway 48, just north of Ruidoso (call 505-258-3333, and the Inn of the

Mountain Gods on Carrizo Canyon Road (call 505-257-5141) The Inn of the Mountain Gods is run by the Mescalero Apache tribe and also offers casino gambling.

Dining options used to be extremely limited, but a few restaurants offer excellent food which would be hits in much larger towns. The hottest new restaurant in town is Che Bella. Featuring authentic Northern Italian cooking and excellent service, this is truly a great dining experience. Che Bella is located at 2823 Sudderth Dr.

Outdoor activities are probably the best reason to visit Ruidoso. The town is located in the shadow of Sierra Blanca - a 12,000 foot peak that is home to the Ski Apache ski area with is open from Thanksgiving to Easter each year. Ruidoso is full of ski rental shops if you didn't bring your own. The ski area is located about a half an hour drive out of Ruidoso. Four wheel drive vehicles or tire chains are frequently needed to get up the mountain on snowy days. Chains can be rented at various locations around town.

Most of the area around Ruidoso is part of the Lincoln National Forest. Great hiking, mountain biking and fishing are also abundant with information available at the Smoky Bear Ranger Station at 800 Mechum Drive, call (505) 257-4095. Some of the best hiking and views of the area can be found in the area around Mon Jeau lookout, a 9,000+ foot mountain that can be reached just off the road to the ski area. Much of the forest has been designated wilderness area, where mountain biking is off-limits. Some good, legal riding can be found along Cedar Creek Road near the ranger station.

The desert is great, but if you desperately need a fix of big trees and cold tap water, Ruidoso will fit the bill. For more information, call the Ruidoso Chamber of Commerce at (505) 257-7395.

New Mexico's Billy the Kid Route received a Scenic Historic Byway designation from the Federal Highway Commission in June of 1995. The Lincoln County area is rich in history. It has been home to Billy the Kid, the Lincoln County War, the Mescalero Apache tribe, Kit Carson, "Black Jack" Pershing, the Buffalo Soldiers, the world's richest Quarter Horse race and Smokey Bear. You're about to take an online "tour" of the communities along the Byway.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.citi-guide.com/nm-ruid.htm

White Sands



White Sands

National Monument

Located in Holloman AFB, NM



At the northern end of the Chihuahuan Desert lies a mountain ringed valley, the Tularosa Basin. Rising from the heart of this basin is one of the world's great natural wonders - the glistening white sands of New Mexico.

Here, great wave-like dunes of gypsum sand have engulfed 275 square miles of desert and have created the world's largest gypsum dune field. The brilliant white dunes are ever changing: growing, cresting, then slumping, but always advancing. Slowly but relentlessly the sand, driven by strong southwest winds, covers everything in its path. Within the extremely harsh environment of the dune field, even plants and animals adapted to desert conditions struggle to survive. Only a few species of plants grow rapidly enough to survive burial by moving dunes, but several types of small animals have evolved a white coloration that camouflages them in the gypsum sand.

White Sands National Monument preserves a major portion of this gypsum dune field, along with the plants and animals that have successfully adapted to this constantly changing environment.

QUICK FACTS

Annual Budget is \$1,053,000.00 (FY 1999) Annual Visitation is 554,372 (1999) Park Covers 143,733 Acres



*WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT (E-3)

About 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo (see place listing p. 133) on US 70/82, the 146,535-acre White Sands National Monument is the source of rare gypsum sands as well as snow-white dunes that rise up to 60 feet above the Tularosa Valley floor. Water from rain and melting snow convey tons of gypsum from the mountains into Lake Lucero, in the southwestern portion of the monument.

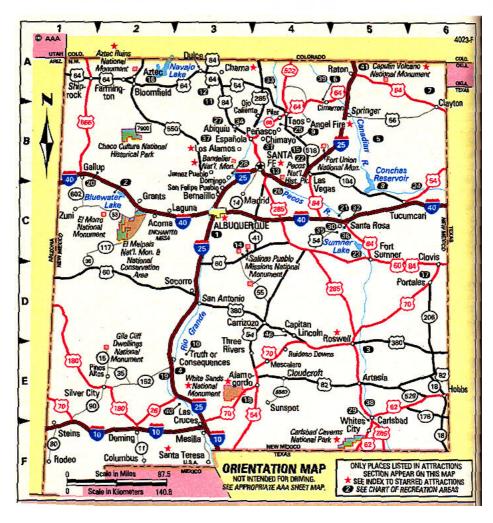
Dry winds evaporate the lake and surrounding alkali flats and carry the broken pieces of crystalline gypsum to the northeast, gradually reducing the fragile pieces to sand and piling it into dunes. Much of the wide sea of dunes is bare of vegetation. However, a few species of plants exhibit remarkable adaptation to their peculiar surroundings by resisting burial under the constantly shifting sands. Plants with stems extending through the sand more than 30 feet have been found.

Drinking water is available only at the visitor center; covered picnic sites and restrooms are in the heart of the dunes area. Information about park facilities is broadcast continuously within 6 miles of the monument over AM 1610.

A visitor center presents the story of the origin and history of White Sands through exhibits and a sound and light program. The center is open daily 8-7, Memorial Day-Labor Day; 8-4:30, rest of year. Closed Dec. 25.

Summer programs include guided walks from marked locations in the dunes daily at 7 p.m. and slide-illustrated talks in the picnic area daily at 8:30 p.m.—earlier in August and September. Full-moon nights featuring guest speakers are held at 8:30 p.m., 2 days per month during the full moon in June, July and August. Patio talks at the visitor center also are presented daily.

The scenic 16-mile round-trip Dunes Drive can be taken daily 7 a.m.-dusk, Memorial Day-Labor Day; 7 a.m.-1 hour after dusk, rest of year. Closed Dec. 25. Admission S3. Phone (505) 479-6124.



Weitere Informationen finden Sie im Internet unter http://www.nps.gov/whsa/.